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NIS COMMITTEE MEETING NO. 158
8 December 1953

1. The following were present:

Mr. Clinton	State
Mr. Kain	State
Major Jacobson	Army
Captain Norgaard	Navy
Lt. Madden	Navy
25X1A9a Lt. Col. Rush	Air Force
	CIA (Chairman)

DOCUMENT NO. _____
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25X1A9a Visitors:

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Office of Inspector General, CIA
Office of Intelligence Coordination, CIA
Chapter I Task Group, D/B

2. Chapter I Development

The Chairman distributed copies of the prototype map on Iran which was developed by D/B for the Chapter I on NIS Area 33 (Iran). This map contains the basic elements for an intelligence appreciation of the area and is intended as a prototype for use with Chapters I on other areas.

The Chairman explained the composition of the prototype map:

- a) the main map contains the general topographic and relief features, the principal towns and ports, and the transportation network including airfields;
- b) on the right of this map are listed the essential data on the area;
- c) above this is a map showing international location of Iran in terms of its strategic position;
- d) four maps along the upper border contain the following graphic material: 1) population and density; 2) industry; 3) land utilization; and 4) principal approach routes.

The Chairman indicated that this map as presently envisioned would be the only full size map used in connection with Chapter I. It is primarily related to Section 11 (Strategic Significance of the NIS Area). Other sections should be supported only by page-size and smaller maps and tables necessary to portray graphically the essential elements of the Sections 12 to 19 of the Chapter.

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The Committee's reaction to the map was favorable and all members felt that it would make more meaningful the approach to be used in developing the Chapter.

The present status of the contributions for Chapter I on Iran was reported as follows:

- a. CIA -- Drafts on Sections 10, 11 and 19 will be ready this month.
- b. State -- Sections 14 and 15 are completed; Section 16 will be ready in early January.
- c. Army -- Work on Sections 12 and 13 will be expedited; all contributions to Section 18 are in hand but need reworking by Army coordinator.
- d. No Section 17 will be required as there is no scientific intelligence worthy of the name on Iran.

The Chairman recommended the task group principle for developing Chapters I. In D/B a task group comprising representatives of the three Branches are used for this purpose. They work as necessary to develop the Chapter, calling in the capabilities of the Division and other CIA components to support the project. This permits uniform treatment and the accumulation of experience so necessary to the proper development of this most important NIS Chapter.

The Committee will consider the production of other Chapters I at the next regular meeting. It was the consensus that the early publication of Chapters I is essential to the fulfillment of a pressing intelligence requirement, to which the JCS has assigned the highest priority.

3. NIS Classification

The Committee discussed the impact upon the NIS Program of the Executive Order "Safeguarding Official Information in the Interests of the Defense of the United States", which goes into effect on 15 December 1953. The Chairman stated that CIA had issued instructions on the Executive Order under Notice 10-310-1 dated 27 November 1953. In view of these requirements and after consultation with the CIA Classification Control Officer, the Chairman set forth his views for the consideration of the Committee:

- a. There will be no further use of "Restricted" or "Security Information".
- b. The three categories of classified information will be Top Secret, Secret and Confidential
- c. Controls may only be used with classified documents, except for special controls that are required for legal purposes, such as to avoid copyright infringement.

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d. The nature of intelligence comprising an integrated program such as the NIS is such as to require all portions thereof to be classified in the interests of National Defense. It therefore follows that NIS material presently classified "Restricted" should be upgraded to "Confidential".

e. The NIS Gazetteers are presently classified "Restricted", but the geographic names thereof are unclassified and are verified in all instances from unclassified sources. The reason for classifying the Gazetteers in the first instance was because their order of publication reflected the JCS priority list for the NIS Program. With the publication of Gazetteers on more than 60 NIS Areas there is no longer the necessity for continuing this classification requirement. Further, it was determined at the outset of the Gazetteer Program and so indicated to BGN that the Gazetteers should eventually be unclassified so that the standard geographic names could be made available to the public in the interests of uniform geographic name development.

The Chairman stated that the problem of classification for the NIS Program was a particularly pressing one as there were many "Restricted" sections under review and awaiting publication in D/B as well as hundreds of "Restricted" graphic items which are part of higher classified sections.

In regard to NIS elements already published, he proposed to the Committee that notification of changes of classifications be consolidated by CIA and issued to all users.

The Committee discussed these factors and agreed, after consultation with the member Agencies, to hold a special meeting at 1000 hours, Friday, 11 December, for the purpose of reaching final agreement on classification of NIS.

4. NIS Questionnaire

The Committee agreed on the revised draft of a questionnaire to go to users of the NIS (refer to NIS Committee Meeting No. 157). It was decided that each Department will distribute the questionnaire to its own users, receive the replies and make them available to the Committee for analysis. The CIA will survey those users to whom it normally disseminates the NIS and who are not served by other IAC agencies.

The agreed to questionnaire reads as follows:

"1. The development of basic intelligence under the National Intelligence Survey (NIS) Program has progressed to the point where a general survey of NIS users is desirable.

"2. The NIS Program was established by the National Security Council in 1948 for the purpose of providing world-wide basic intelligence required by the Government. The essential features of the Program are set forth in the NIS Standard Instructions.

"3. The full basic intelligence requirements of the Program are encyclopedic. The published NIS, however, are designed to satisfy the strategic and other high level planning requirements of the Government. They are also designed with adequate detail for use by the major commands and field collection activities of the Armed Forces and the Foreign Service.

"4. The fundamental NIS production plan calls for the development, within limits of available information, of integrated basic intelligence studies on foreign countries in accordance with JCS priorities. With the development of the Program increasing emphasis is being given to the revision of published NIS and to the preparation of Chapters I (Brief) containing comprehensive intelligence summaries of each NIS area.

"5. It is realized that many users of the NIS can make no conclusive observations during this period when there is incomplete and segmented coverage on many areas resulting from the production and publication of NIS elements on a world-wide basis; yet meaningful commentary on NIS elements in hand can serve as a valuable guide in the long range development of the NIS Program. To this end addressees are asked to comment fully on the following questions and return their replies to _____ by _____.

"a. How are you now making use of the NIS?

"b. Do you anticipate that the complete NIS maintained adequately up to date will be of further use to you? In what way?

"c. In the event of a critical situation or a general war would the immediate availability of the NIS be of great, moderate, or little value to you? Specify.

"d. Wherein does the scope and treatment of the NIS fall short of your basic intelligence needs?

"e. What are your recommendations for improving the NIS?"

5. Dissemination of NIS Draft Material

(Refer to NIS Committee Meeting No. 157). The Committee agreed that the policy on the dissemination of NIS draft material established by the NIS Committee at its 28th meeting held on 21 April 1949 is sound and should be strictly complied with. There was further agreement that, in addition to the statement required by Part I, Editorial Instructions, there should appear a statement that "this draft copy shall be destroyed upon receipt of the related published NIS material."

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6. NIS Correlation Guide

The Committee heard views of its members relative to the usefulness of the NIS Correlation Guide (refer to NIS Committee Meeting No. 157).

The Committee found that:

a. the Correlation Guide had not been disseminated to many who were working on NIS material;

b. the terms "related treatment" and "primary treatment" were confusing and should be removed or replaced by more appropriate headings;

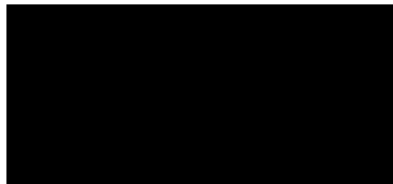
c. the issuance of the Guide separately from the Standard Instructions caused it to be overlooked by many who could benefit from its use.

d. The Guide had been found helpful by most of those who had used it.

The Committee decided that the NIS Correlation Guide should be revised and issued as part of the NIS Standard Instructions. D/B will undertake a revision of the Guide upon receipt of recommendations from all members which will be due the first meeting in January.

7. The next meeting of the Committee was set for 1000 hours on Friday, 11 December 1953.

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Distribution:

- 4 - NIS Committee
- 1 - Secy, JIG
- 1 - AD/RR
- 1 - AD/IC
- 1 - CH/C
- 2 - CH/G
- 3 - D/B

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